

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-04 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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P R 220720Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5388

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 14180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OTRA ID

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIAN

SPECIAL ENVOY TOURING AFRICA

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED BY OFFICE OF LT. GEN. ALI MURTOPO, ADVISOR AND TROUBLE-SHOOTER FOR GOI PRESIDENT SUHARTO, THAT FORMER GOI AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA MAJ. GEN OTTO ABDULRACHMAN BEING DISPATCHED BY MURTOPO TO VARIOUS AFRICAN CAPITALS. PURPOSE OF TRIP SAID TO BE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON GENERAL SITUATION, BUT EMBASSY STRONGLY SUSPECTS ABDULRACHMAN WILL BE SOUNDING OUT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR REACTIONS TO POSSIBILITY OF INDONESIAN INCORPORATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. GOI SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IN SOUNDINGS AT UNGA MANY AFRICANS

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"SEEMED TO EQUATE DECOLONIZATION WITH INDEPENDENCE",

OBJECTIVE OF CURRENT TRIP MAY WELL BE TO TRY TO BRING AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AROUND TO GOI VIEW THAT ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION FOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR IS MERGER WITH INDONESIA.

2. ABDULRACHMAN HAS ALREADY LEFT JAKARTA, WITH ITINERARY AS FOLLOWS: NOV 23--PORT LOUIS; NOV 28--DAR ES SALAAM; DEC 5 OR 6--KINSHASA; DEC 7--LAGOS; FURTHER STOPS IN NAIROBI, TANANARIVE AND ADDIS ABABA LIKELY, WITH DATES DEPENDENT ON OR SCHEDULES.

3. MURTOPO'S OFFICE HAS INDICATED THAT ABDULRACHMAN MAY CALL AT AMEMBASSIES ON HIS ROUTE (AUSTRALIANS REPORTEDLY MAY ALSO BE CALLED ON). NO SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTED, BUT FACILITATIVE COURTESIES INCLUDING (IF REQUESTED) SUGGESTIONS RE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO CONTACT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. USG HAS TAKEN NO POSITION ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR QUESTION EXCEPT TO TELL GOI OFFICIALS THAT WE APPROVE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS AND COULD ACCEPT ANY DECISION MADE BY TIMORESE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO LEND OFFICIAL SUPPORT TO WHAT-EVER MESSAGE ABDULRACHMAN MAY HAVE FOR AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS BY REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS OR OTHERWISE ACTING ON HIS BEHALF VIS-A-VIS HOST GOVERNMENTS.

4. ABDULRACHMAN IS SOMEWHAT SHADOWY FIGURE WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND LONG HISTORY OF LEFT-WING ASSOCIATIONS DURING INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE AND SUKARNO REGIME. HIS DURABILITY, HOWEVER, ATTESTED BY HIS SURVIVAL OF BOTH 1948 COMMUNIST PUTSCH AND 1965 DOWNFALL OF SUKARNOIST FONMIN SUBANDRIO WITH WHOM HE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED, HIS 1970 APPOINTMENT TO TANZANIA BY SUHARTO REGIME AND HIS CURRENT ASSOCIATION WITH MURTOPO.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORTS CONCERNING ABDULRACHMAN'S MISSION WHICH ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY PICK UP. TOUSSAINT

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